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FLOOR DEBATE

February 13, 2001 LB 269

double it, from 15 to 30; your Judiciary Committee, this year, established it at 45 rather than at the \$100,000, which was suggested to us in the green copy. It's a reasonable attempt to compromise and I would represent to the body and for the record that if that amount needs to be further discussed and refined we certainly could do that on Select File. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment and the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 269. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 269...I'm sorry, on the adoption of the committee amendments. Excuse me.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The committee amendments are agreed to. For debate on the advancement of LB 269, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, if...I hope my remarks won't sound too disjointed here, because I've been listening with one ear to the debate, and with the other ear doing some other things. This bill, I suppose to most of you, looks innocuous. And you're going to wonder why we're going to...why we may talk about it at all today. Came out of the Judiciary Committee and maybe it shouldn't be...maybe it shouldn't be a concern. But, if I'm...if I'm understanding what I heard in the committee amendments right and...and the original bill is that it is a significant increase in the jurisdiction of the county court. Now why should we care about whether we significantly increase the jurisdiction of the county court? Some people may say that that will allow the county courts to take on a heavier workload; if the county courts take on a heavier workload, then we don't need to have as many district judges, or we won't need to increase the number of district judges in the future; it will tend to even out the workloads between the courts, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And we don't need to worry about the quality of the judges that are going to be deciding these cases. We have, over time, brought very qualified individuals to the